



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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La Paz, Bolivia,  
December 10, 1948.

No. 881

UNCLASSIFIED

Subject: Arrival of Argentine Commission for the  
running of the frontier line between  
Bolivia and Argentina.

Rec'd  
Dec. 13

ACTION  
ARA

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

INFO  
DCR  
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Sir:

RETURN TO CIA TELETYPE

I have the honor to report that on December 4, 1948 an Argentine Commission composed of General Otto H. HELBLING; Colonel of Engineers, Maximino ARES; Major Julio F.B. LUXARDO; Samuel DVORSKIN, Surveyor; and Mr. Emilio Alejandro CASSINI, Secretary of the Commission. Press announcements stated that General Helbling is one of the most eminent military geodetical experts of the Argentine Republic. The press stated further that having been a former artillery officer, he dedicated himself to the study of geodetics and topography, pursuing special courses in those subjects at the Escuela de Guerra in Argentina. More recently he presided at the Fourth International Meeting of Cartography attended by delegates of all of the American nations.

In describing the purpose of the visit, the Argentine Delegation stressed that very frequently public opinion confuses the term "delimitation" with "demarcation" in connection with the work which the Mixed Commission is to perform. He went on to say that there is no question of boundaries between Bolivia and the Argentine Republic, but that the Commissions were undertaking the work of demarcation and the placing of boundary posts and that the exact situation of these posts would be located on a cartographic map, as well as the course of the frontier line.

In reply to a direct question, the head of the Argentine Commission stated that this visit had nothing to do with the frontier in the Villazón-La Quiaca region where a recent frontier incident took place, since at that point the international boundary is precisely indicated by the course of the river.

It is understood that the Argentine Commission will remain in Bolivia until about December 20 before returning to Buenos Aires. During their sojourn here the Bolivian Commission which will work with them is composed of General Abelardo PRIETO, Major Humberto MELAZZINI, and Mr. Jorge MARIACA Pando. The Bolivians stressed in the press that there is

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no conflict whatsoever in the work which the Commission will undertake.

Following the arrival of the Commission, a courtesy call was made by its members on the President of the Republic and on December 6 the two Commissions began their work, the purpose of which is to fix the location of boundary posts on certain parts of the frontier.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Flack

JFlack/ga

cc: Amembassy, Buenos Aires  
cc: Spencer M. King, Esquire,  
Bolivian Desk, NWC.

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